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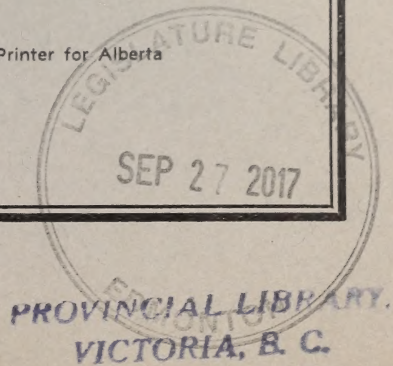
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SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WELFARE
1949-1950

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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1951





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PUBLIC WELFARE
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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Edmonton, Alberta.
February 1st, 1951.

TO HIS HONOUR J. J. BOWLEN,
Lieutenant Governor
of the Province of Alberta.

Sir:

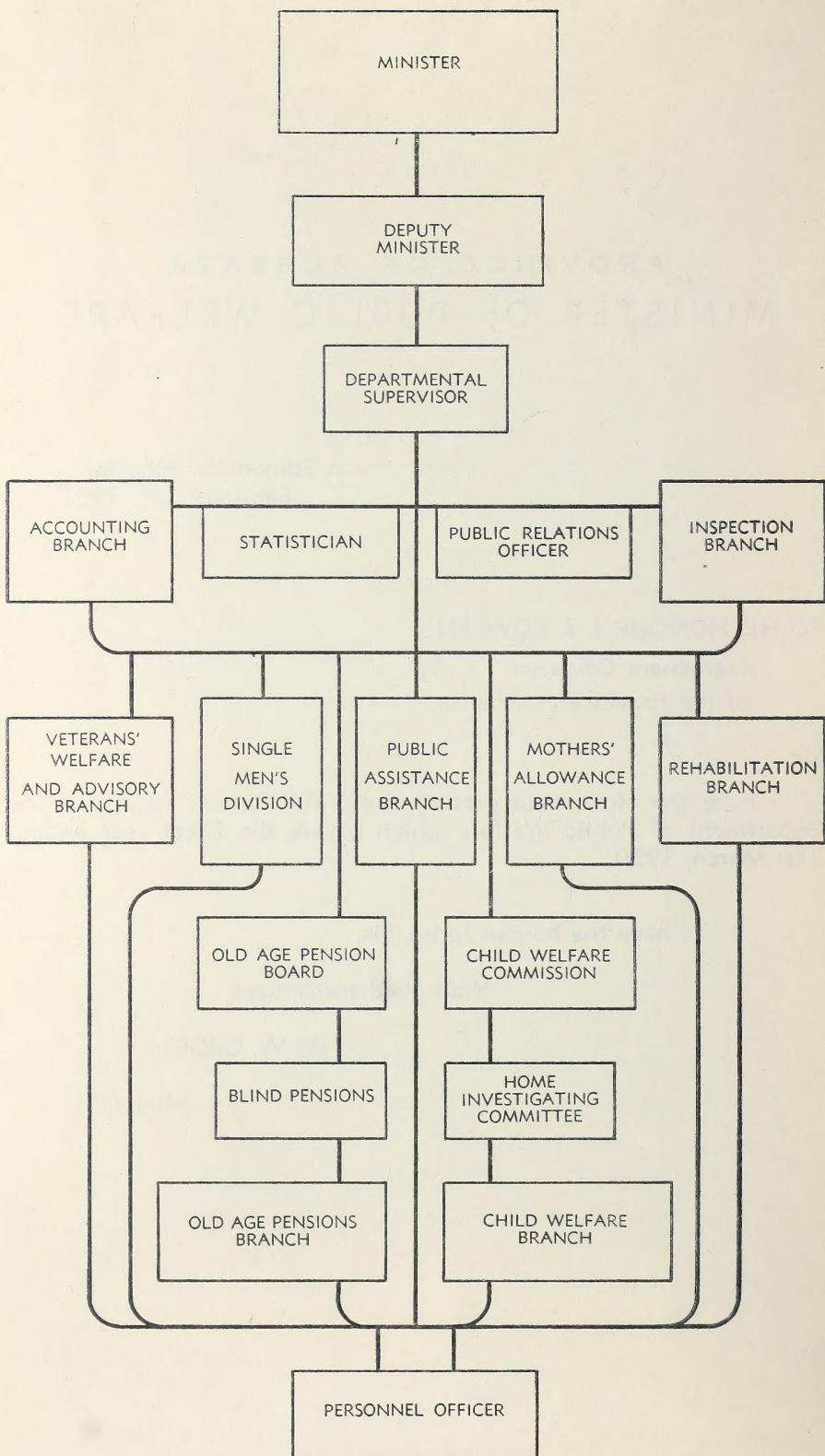
I have the Honour to present the Sixth Annual Report of the
Department of Public Welfare which covers the fiscal year ending
31st March, 1950.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. W. CROSS,

Minister.



HONOURABLE W. W. CROSS, M.D.	Minister
A. H. MILLER	Deputy Minister
R. WILDING	Departmental Supervisor
C. F. SWEETLOVE	Departmental Accountant
R. G. HAGEN	Chairman, Home Investigating Committee Supervisor, Public Assistance Branch
W. A. R. REES	Director, Single Men's Division Member, Veterans' Advisory Commission
A. C. McCULLY	Supervisor, Rehabilitation Branch
E. BROWN	Chairman, Veterans' Welfare Commission
C. B. HILL	Superintendent, Child Welfare Branch
W. P. BULLOCK	Superintendent, Mothers' Allowance Branch Supervisor of Inspections Branch
A. BLACKIE	Superintendent, Old Age Pensions and Blind Pensions Branch
H. F. COOMBS	Supervisor, Calgary Office


OLD AGE PENSIONS BOARD

R. WILDING	Chairman
A. BLACKIE	Member
W. P. BULLOCK	Member

CHILD WELFARE COMMISSION

C. B. HILL	Chairman
W. P. BULLOCK	Member-Secretary
ELLEN A. TATHAM	Member
E. BROWN	Member
A. A. ALDRIDGE	Member

W. P. BULLOCK	Personnel Officer
A. L. MILLER	Statistician



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Report of the Deputy Minister

Edmonton, Alberta,
January 26th, 1951.

Honourable W. W. Cross, M.D.,
Minister of Public Welfare,
Edmonton, Alberta

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of The Department of Public Welfare Act, I have the honour to submit to you the Sixth Annual Report of the Department of Public Welfare, which covers the fiscal year ending 31st of March, 1950.

The Department consists of the following branches and divisions, and a separate report of the activities of each branch and division is submitted herewith:

- The Public Welfare Assistance Branch
- Single Men's Division
- Rehabilitation Branch
- Veterans' Welfare and Advisory Commission
- Child Welfare Branch
- Mothers' Allowance Branch
- Old Age Pensions Branch
- Inspection Branch
- Accounting Branch.

The following statutes come within the scope of the Department's activities:

- The Bureau of Public Welfare Act
- The Metis Population Betterment Act
- The Child Welfare Act
- The Juvenile Offenders' Act
- The Relief Liability Act
- The Improvement Districts Act (Sections 45, 46, 47)
- The Unemployment Relief Act
- The Home for Aged or Infirm Act
- The Maternal Welfare Act
- The Poliomyelitis Sufferers' Act (Section 3)
- The Old Age Pensions Act (Alberta)
- The Old Age Pensions (Supplementary Allowances) Act
- The Mothers' Allowance Act.

During the 1949 Session of the Legislature the following Amendment Acts, all of which have a direct bearing on the working of the Department were placed on the statute books:

The Bureau of Public Welfare Act—Amendment Act 1949
The Child Welfare Act—Amendment Act 1949
The Improvement Districts Act 1947—Amendment Act 1949
The Mothers' Allowance Act—Amendment Act 1949
The Municipal District Act—Amendment Act 1949
The Old Age Pensions Act—Amendment Act 1949
The Old Age Pensions (Supplementary Allowances) Act—
Amendment Act 1949
The Public Welfare Assistance Act (new)
The Town and Village Act—Amendment Act 1949

The Amendment Acts referred to merely clarify the situation in connection with the respective existing Acts, but the Public Welfare Assistance Act, which is a new statute, provides for the payment of grants to municipalities up to 60 per cent of their costs with respect to public assistance and child welfare. During the period covered, the operation of this Act resulted in an outlay of \$353,583.00.

With the continued development of the oil industry in the Province, which resulted in the establishment of other allied industries, we find that many persons from other parts of the Dominion and from other countries are continually moving into the Province of Alberta. Those able and willing to work are quite successful in obtaining employment at the very high rate of wages that are now available. This situation, however, results in other classes of people coming to the Province, who seem to be unable to accept suitable employment, and it is this class today that we find are getting on the assistance rolls of both the Province and the municipalities. We are continuing the policy of referring those cases who have not acquired legal residence in the Province to the Province of their origin and if it is decided to be in the best interests of all concerned, they are immediately returned to their own province. This, of course, entails a considerable expenditure of public funds, besides the amount already expended for their maintenance. The immediate outlay should, however, be more than offset by what would be gained in the future.

As the industry in the Province continues to prosper, we must anticipate an increase in this type of assistance. Those who are gainfully employed in seasonal occupations seem to have difficulty in realizing the need to make proper provision to carry them through the winter months, when the greater portion of outside employment is discontinued. Owing to the very nature of their work, the amount accumulated through the Unemployment Insurance Fund is insufficient to carry them over a prolonged period and they are accordingly obliged to ask for public assistance. This results in an increase in our expenditure during that particular period.

The demand for services to non-employable persons, including hospital and medical attention, continues to increase, as do also the costs of such services. Many elderly unskilled persons, who only a few years ago, had succeeded in obtaining sufficient remunerative employment to look after themselves, must now definitely be regarded as no longer employable, and it has always been the desire of the Government to see that these people are cared for, either in the welfare depots for single, homeless men, or in homes for aged or infirm, of which there are no fewer than 47 in the Province.

The rehabilitation and re-establishment policy adopted by the Province many years ago continues to show satisfactory results. Many families, formerly in receipt of assistance, have been successfully re-established and are now fully maintaining themselves. This is due to a large extent to the constant and untiring efforts of the individual members of the staff, who have been successful in finding employment for such persons through sources other than the National Employment Service.

The Metis Settlement Scheme continues to fulfil the purpose for which it was intended, and details of the activities of this Branch are embodied in a separate report covering this phase of our operations.

The Single Men's Welfare Depots at Gunn and Evansburg, and the hostels at Calgary and Edmonton, provide for the aged or physically unfit single men. These centres continue to maintain the highest peak of efficiency, and experience continues to show that this method is the most suitable for looking after single homeless persons. These homes are frequently visited, and the inmates always seem happy and contented with their lot, and express themselves satisfied with their environment.

The method of providing medical services in remote areas of the Province, a method that has been in effect for many years, is being continued. Seventeen doctors and three nurses under contract provide medical aid in the outlying areas of the Province. Medical supplies and equipment are furnished to local nurses and nursing institutions where no other form of medical service is available.

There are still a number of families of Japanese evacuees who are being provided with assistance by this Province, under an agreement with the Dominion Government.

The work of the Old Age Pensions Branch shows a gradual increase in volume, as is revealed by the separate report on that Branch.

As the volume of work increases, it has become the practice to appoint extra staff to the Inspection Branch. This results in reducing the size of the territory which each inspector must cover.

Inspections are being held regularly, and it is now the practice to receive an Inspection Report on each person, including those children who are placed in foster homes, at least twice each year. The work of the Inspection Branch will no doubt continue to increase as time goes on.

An increasing interest in welfare matters is steadily developing among our citizens, an attitude which is noted with deepest satisfaction by the staff of the Department of Public Welfare.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the loyal and faithful support that has been given by all members of the staff throughout the year. The very nature of the work of this Department, dealing as it does with suffering and distress, requires tact and firmness combined with sympathetic consideration.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. MILLER,

Deputy Minister of Public Welfare.

Public Assistance Branch

Granting of assistance to indigent transients, indigent residents of Improvement Districts (non-organized territory), and Special Areas is handled by the Public Assistance Branch. This Branch also handles applications of grants provided by The Home for Aged and Infirm Act, The Maternal Welfare Act, and for assistance with respect to rehabilitation under The Poliomyelitis Sufferers' Act.

The amount and number of people being assisted is continuing to show a steady increase, and this trend is likely to continue as the population and the average age of our people increase.

The increased industries in the Province, largely brought about by the rich discovery of oil, has been to some extent responsible for a large influx of population from other provinces and countries. Although the majority of these persons will prove to be an asset to the province, there is, as might be expected, a number of people who have come here with few or no resources, in the hope of finding something to do. This has caused a serious situation in our larger cities in respect to housing accommodation, with the result that families, many of them well-to-do, are found to be living under conditions that would not be tolerated in normal times.

With the increased construction work now in progress, and the high rate of wages paid to all classes of labour, the situation has, until now, taken care of itself. Should, however, a period arrive when, owing to unseasonal weather or other causes, outside work cannot be proceeded with, it is possible that many of those now engaged in casual employment may find it necessary, after their benefits under the Unemployment Insurance scheme have been used up, to apply for public assistance, either from the Province, or the municipality, depending on whether or not they have been able to establish residence.

Provision has been made for those who are no longer able to look after themselves, to place them in homes that are licensed by municipalities under The Home for the Aged and Infirm Act. The number of persons being looked after in such homes shows a gradual increase from year to year. In cases where the municipalities pay for the cost of maintenance of these people, grants up to one-half of the cost incurred are available to municipalities from the Province.

Japanese evacuees from the British Columbia area, who were moved to the southern part of the province during the war years by the Dominion Government, have, to an extent become self-supporting. There are, however, still a small minority who require public assistance in some form. All such cases are dealt with by field representatives of this department and administered by the Public Assistance Branch.

The following is a statement of the number of those who have received assistance directly from the Department for various periods during the year:

	No. of Units	Dependents	Total
Transients:			
Material Aid.....	507	1431	1938
Medical and Hospital Services.....	-----	-----	312
Improvement Districts:			
Material Aid.....	983	3274	4257
Medical and Hospital Services.....	-----	-----	473
Special Areas:			
Material Aid.....	83	198	281
Medical and Hospital Services.....	-----	-----	81
Homes for Aged and Infirm:			
Maintained by:			No.
Cities, Towns and Villages.....			383
Municipal Districts and Special Areas.....			278
Improvement Districts.....			393
Province			214

Single Men's Branch

Single men who have not established residence in a city, town or municipality are cared for by the Single Men's Branch of the Department of Public Welfare. Many of the men cared for at the various institutions provided by the Branch are over seventy years of age. Although they have reached Old Age Pension age they are unable to obtain this Pension for various reasons. Lack of proof of age is the main cause.

Many young men are given temporary assistance, particularly those with no relatives who have been ill in hospital and on discharge are destitute and require care and assistance until they have recovered sufficiently to maintain themselves.

To provide for these single men two hostels were established—one at Edmonton and the other at Calgary. In addition to the two hostels there is a welfare centre near the Village of Gunn and another situated between the Villages of Entwistle and Evansburg.

Edmonton and Calgary Hostels

The Old Immigration Hall, Edmonton, is the central place where the single men of the Northern half of the Province are registered and cared for. Here they apply for assistance, are registered, and if they require medical attention are sent to the Outdoor Clinic for examination.

Men who require no medical attention are sent from the Old Immigration Hall to one of the two welfare centres but those who have to periodically attend the Clinic remain at the Old Immigration Hall until they are fit to go to a welfare centre.

The Ogden Hostel, Calgary, is maintained to care for the single men of the Southern half of the Province who require Provincial assistance.

The medical care of the inmates is provided by a doctor employed by the Department. There are also two medical orderlies who work under the supervision of the medical officer and they can care for recently discharged hospital patients who require limited institutional care.

Vegetables and garden produce are grown on land in the vicinity of the Hostel and the inmates who are able to, assist in the work in the garden.

At the end of this report is a weekly menu of the meals served at the Ogden Hostel.

Welfare Centres

The two welfare centres are situated in the Edmonton area. The nearest one is slightly less than fifty miles West and North of Edmonton; quarter of a mile from the Village of Gunn and about the same distance from the shores of Lac Ste. Anne.

The centre is on a gravelled road with a daily bus service to and from the city. The Canadian National Railway also runs through the Village of Gunn.

Gardens are cultivated at the centre where sufficient vegetables, etc., are grown to provide for the men during the year.

At the welfare centre, cows, chickens, hogs and rabbits are kept to provide milk, eggs and meat for the inmates. The men who are able to, assist in the cultivation of the gardens and the care of the stock and chickens.

During the summer months many of the men go fishing in Lac Ste. Anne and the cook will cook for them the fish they catch.

Most of the inmates take an interest in growing flowers and there is quite keen competition in growing the best display in the flowers around the respective huts.

Evansburg Welfare Centre is sixty-eight miles West of Edmonton on the Edmonton-Jasper Highway and is situated on the right bank of the Pembina River. It is approximately mid-way between the Villages of Entwistle and Evansburg, each of which is a mile or so from the centre.

Here also sufficient vegetables are grown to feed the men housed at the centre.

At both centres the men live in huts and eat at a central dining room. There is also at each camp a bath house with shower baths, hot and cold water, and also a recreation hut with a radio, tables for cards and other games, and a library of books and periodicals.

Local farmers and people of the villages in the vicinity of the centres frequently employ the men of the centre to do light work. The money earned by the men for such work is kept by them for their own use.

In the fall wild berries are picked by the men and sold to the local villagers.

Most of the elderly men cared for spent their active years in the outdoors and life at a welfare centre is more in keeping with what they have been used to than living in a city.

Ex-Servicemen

Ex-Servicemen have been given preferential treatment ever since assistance has been provided single men. The majority of the Ex-servicemen on relief are ex-soldiers of the First Great War who are not eligible for the Burnt-Out Pension granted by the Dominion Government.

At Edmonton, ex-servicemen live in local rooming houses. For their meals they are given meal tickets entitling them to eat at certain cafes in the city.

Calgary veterans receive vouchers twice a month and make their own arrangements for room and board.

In addition to being provided with room and board the ex-servicemen receive the necessary clothing and are given a tobacco issue twice a month.

A veteran, may, if he so desires, live at one of the hostels or welfare centres.

General

Men cared for at the hostels and welfare centres are given clothing and tobacco in addition to their board and room.

Efforts are made by the Branch to rehabilitate men who are sent from the hospitals to the hostels or welfare centres to recuperate after illness, and who are capable of earning their own living after they recover from their illness. We have, to date, been very successful in this respect.

In addition to the regular relief recipients the Branch provides assistance to a large number of transients who are given meals and temporary shelter at the two hostels. The number so assisted is particularly large during the harvesting season and early spring when men drift into the Province from other Provinces seeking work.

The number of single men given temporary assistance has been particularly heavy in the Edmonton area, due mainly to the wide publicity given to the oil development in the area. The hope of obtaining work at high wages in the oilfields has attracted men from all over Canada. Many do not have the necessary physique or experience for such work.

The Branch provides assistance for many destitute single men living in shacks, etc., in the remote areas who refuse to come to live in the hostels and welfare centres, where they would be better off. Sick and infirm single men in the hospitals and homes for the infirm throughout the Province, who are Provincial charges, are also the responsibility of the Single Men's Branch.

Department of Public Welfare

Single Men's Branch

M E N U

OGDEN HOSTEL

Week Ending Sept. 30th, 1950

Breakfast

Cornmeal porridge
Fried bacon
Toast, butter
Coffee or milk.

Oatmeal porridge
Boiled eggs
Toast, butter
Coffee or milk.

Cream of Wheat
Pancakes, syrup
Toast, butter
Coffee or milk.

Oatmeal porridge
Fried bacon
Toast, butter
Coffee or milk.

Cream of Wheat
Boiled eggs
Toast, butter
Coffee or milk.

Oatmeal porridge
Pancakes, syrup
Toast, butter
Coffee or milk.

Cream of Wheat
Fried sausage
Toast, butter
Coffee or milk.

Lunch

Sunday

Bread, butter
Apple sauce
Tea or milk.

Monday

Bread, butter
Plum jam
Tea or milk.

Tuesday

Bread, butter
Custard pudding
Tea or milk.

Wednesday

Bread, butter
Johnny cake, syrup
Tea or milk.

Thursday

Bread, butter
Apple sauce
Tea or milk.

Friday

Bread, butter
Cheese
Tea or milk.

Saturday

Bread, butter
Cottage pudding
Tea or milk.

Dinner

Corn soup
Roast pork, dressing
Potatoes, lettuce
Pickled beets
Bread, butter — Jelly and cake
Tea or milk.

Vegetable soup
Beef stew, vegetables
Mashed potatoes
Bread, butter — Stewed prunes
Tea or milk.

Barley soup
Beef pot roast, gravy
New potatoes
Swiss chard (greens)
Bread, butter — Apple sauce
Tea or milk.

Split pea soup
Beef pot roast, gravy
New potatoes, beans
Bread, butter — Rice pudding
Tea or milk.

Vegetable soup
Beef stew, vegetables
Mashed potatoes
Bread, butter — Stewed prunes
Tea or milk.

Tomato soup
Baked halibut
Mashed potatoes
Creamed peas
Bread, butter — Apple sauce
Tea or milk.

Barley soup
Meat pie, potatoes
Swiss chard (greens)
Bread, butter — Raisin pudding
Tea or milk.

Diets as prescribed by Doctor.

Rehabilitation and Re-establishment Metis Settlement Colonies

During the year under review considerably less development and expenditure on Metis Colonies was undertaken from Government funds, but from the standpoint of individual settlers' rehabilitation, it proved to be one of the most successful years since the inception of the enterprise. The number of settlers who from their own efforts made improvements in their homes, purchased their own farm machinery, and added to their livestock has been most gratifying to the administration. Several of the farms are now fully equipped with power machinery.

Metis veterans established under the Dominion-Provincial special agreement in the Colonies are, in the majority of cases, making good progress.

Assistance by way of material aid has been solely confined to issues necessary to provide for settlers who are unable to work owing to old age or sickness.

Development and Permanent Improvements

The program under which the settlers have been able to work in return for assistance has been maintained and under the plan development work has been carried on during the year. This comprises:

- Improvements of roads and trails
- Construction of culverts
- Deliveries of logs for manufacture into lumber and shingles for use in the area
- Construction of buildings required for use by the government supervisor and to house government livestock and equipment placed in the area.
- Fencing.
- Clearing and developing of community land.

Continued progress is noted in the agricultural areas in clearing and breaking land for crops. One thousand one hundred and sixty-five acres are now cleared, broken, and under cultivation and ready for crop next season. During the year, settlers on the Keg River Colony threshed 31,600 bushels of wheat, 5,400 bushels of barley, 14,300 bushels of oats and 510 bushels of flax. The majority of settlers grew sufficient garden produce to carry them through the winter. Development and cropping of the community farm lands provides both feed for the work stock, seed grain for settlers, and demonstrates the suitability of crops to the various areas. Plots of Alfalfa, Brome, Altaswede and Timothy are being cultivated as well as Barley, Oats, and Flax. No plot is less than 10 acres.

Government improvements completed during the year are as follows:

Keg River:

Picket fencing on village streets
Farm fencing and painting of government buildings.
Implement shed.

Beaver River:

Picket fencing on village streets
Painting of government buildings.

There are now improvements of a permanent nature on the areas to a value of \$148,697.33.

For details see attached statements marked B1 and B2.

Housing

There are now on the Areas 93 houses which comply with standard housing requirements, an additional 25 are under construction, and 158 are temporary shacks.

For details see attached statements marked Appendix A.

Stock and Equipment

Settlers participating in the program now own livestock and equipment as set out below, all of which have been purchased from their own resources:

Milch Cows	363	
Other Cattle	687	Total 1050
Horses	810	
Hogs	240	
Sheep	102	
Poultry	1716	

to a value of approximately \$112,545.00. In order to improve the settler's livestock, the government has placed purebred sires of all classes in all areas. Settler's equipment consisting of wagons, sleighs, harness, mowers, and rakes is valued at approximately \$45,893.00.

For details of stock and equipment on the various areas see Appendix C.

Education

The Supervisor of Metis Rehabilitation is now the official trustee in all Metis Colony Schools, an office which was formerly held by the Supervisor of the Division in which the various Metis Colonies were situated. The divisional supervisor still performs the actual classrooms inspections and supervision.

The department has the responsibility of building and maintaining the schools and employing the teachers. During the year under review considerable advancement was made; 8 new classrooms were in operation and one new schoolhouse was built. Schools which previously operated with the most limited supply of text, library and reference books and other equipment now have as good a supply of everything as the average rural school.

Inspector's reports disclose that the average attendance in these schools compares favourably with the average attendance in schools in pioneer white settlements, and the progress made by the Metis children is reported to be very satisfactory. It is also noted that there is a marked improvement in the cleanliness and general health of these children.

The improved living conditions of those who now have homes that comply with the standards set for housing in these areas and the adoption of simple precautions to procure pure drinking water, no doubt account to some extent for this general improvement. However, some difficulty is still being experienced in prevailing upon the settlers to adopt simple rules of general sanitation and to eliminate overcrowding in their homes.

Health

Where possible medical health officers and district health nurses have visited the colonies and rendered their usual services. Vaccinations, inoculations, immunization treatments and general health inspections were carried out. On Keg River Colony we have constructed and equipped an emergency hospital and placed a resident nurse in charge, the settlers themselves supplying much of the labour and funds used for the purchase of part of the equipment. It is the intention to support this enterprise from funds accumulated in the Metis Trust Fund. This fund has been accumulated for the most part from the profits of community projects, such as lumbering and fishing, which have been carried on by the settlers under Government Supervision. It is the intention of the Administration to expand this service so that there may be a similar set-up in each colony.

Stores

In order to make available necessary supplies at proper prices, stores of staple goods are now carried in two of the areas, Keg River No. 1 and Beaver River No. 7 and placed in charge of the Government Supervisor of each area. This provides a means of making available material required for the erection of buildings (shelter) other than material that may be produced in the area, and also food and clothing when necessary, and enables the settlers to obtain their supplies at minimum prices, all goods being sold at cost price plus a small handling charge to cover the cost of operation.

Timber

Commercial timber projects were set up and successfully operated in each colony. All public funds used in connection with these projects were repaid out of the sale of lumber and the profits placed in the Metis Trust Fund. These operations provide gainful employment for a large number of settlers and at the same time make it possible for them to remain in their own homes and look after their own livestock, instead of going to work in distant lumber camps.

Appendix "A"

STATEMENT
to 31st March, 1950

APPROVED SETTLERS

No.	Area	Families	Total Persons	Standard	Temporary Shacks	Standard Under Construction	Not yet On Area
No. 1	Keg River	60	250	21	27	8	---
No. 3	Big Prairie-Utikuma	73	331	15	40	2	19
No. 4	East Prairie	21	90	2	8	4	1
No. 7	Beaver River	69	290	34	24	6	---
No. 8A	Wolf Lake	22	89	4	16	---	---
No. 10	Fishing Lake	75	325	17	43	5	---
		320	1375	93	158	25	20

Appendix "B 1"

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY SETTLERS ON ALLOTMENTS AS AT MARCH 31st, 1950

Area No.	Houses Value	Value of Other Buildings Fencing, Wells	Clearing Acres	Breaking Acres	Breaking and Clearing Value	Gardens Value	Total
No. 1 Keg River	\$11,432.00	\$10,560.00	150	1660	\$ 7,350.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 29,742.00
No. 3 Big Prairie-Utikuma	6,410.00	5,460.00	300	320	5,280.00	320.00	17,470.00
No. 4 East Prairie	2,925.00	2,731.00	75	340	2,860.00	120.00	8,636.00
No. 7 Beaver River	10,560.00	7,520.00	250	584	7,960.00	500.00	26,540.00
No. 8A Wolf Lake	1,010.00	975.00	90	160	1,720.00	100.00	3,805.00
No. 9A Elizabeth		(Combined with Area No. 10, Fishing Lake)					
No. 10 Fishing Lake	9,653.00	6,150.00	300	390	4,610.00	390.00	20,803.00
	\$41,990.00	\$33,396.00	1165	3454	\$29,780.00	\$1,830.00	\$106,996.00

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS ON GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY LANDS As at March 31st, 1950

No. and Name of Area	Buildings	Values	Fencing, Wells, etc.	Area of Clearing	Area of Breaking	Value	Cost of Surveys	Roads	Cost	Total
No. 1 Keg River	Dist. Nurse's House, Supervisor's House, Foreman's House, Granaries New Store, 2 Barns, Pig Pen, School & Teach- erage (new), New School, Post Office, Implement Shed.	\$11,405.00	Gov't Farm Land, Corrals, and Fencing	-----	145 ac.	\$ 725.00	\$ 612.00	14 mi.	\$1,000.00	\$15,092.00
No. 3 Utikuma and Big Prairie	Office, School & Teacherage	5,125.00	Village Fencing	-----	-----	40.00	176.75	-----	-----	5,341.75
No. 4 East Prairie	School and Teacherage Bridge over East Prairie River.	8,000.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	71.33	-----	-----	8,071.33
No. 7 Beaver River	Hall, 2 Barns, Plank, Corrals, 120-ft. Bridge over Beaver River, Store Supervisor's House, School & Teacher- age, Post Office, 2 Implement Sheds, Office, School & Teacherage	9,125.00	Gov't Farm Land, Village Fencing.	-----	67 ac.	363.00	106.00	22 mi.	2,600.00	13,094.00
No. 8A Wolf Lake	House, Office	2,550.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	39.67	-----	-----	2,589.67
No. 9A Elizabeth	Hall, New School	4,650.00	-----	23 ac.	15 ac.	190.00	120.00	-----	-----	5,010.00
No. 10 Fishing Lake	House, Barn, Storehouse, School and Teacherage, New School	7,496.00	-----	22 ac.	20 ac.	232.00	214.48	-----	-----	7,964.48
		\$48,351.00			247 ac.	\$1,550.00	\$1,340.23	36 mi.	\$3,600.00	\$57,163.23

Appendix "C"

LIVESTOCK AND EQUIPMENT ON METIS AREAS — SETTLERS PROPERTY

As at March 31st, 1950.

Area No. and Name	Livestock							Equipment	
	Milk Cows	Other Cattle	Hogs	Sheep	Poultry	Work Horses	Other Horses	Value	Total Value
No. 1 Keg River.....	90	140	118	—	600	90	20	\$ 27,670.00	\$ 11,540.00
No. 3 Big Prairie-Utikuma.....	34	62	30	—	90	67	20	17,050.00	7,675.00
No. 4 East Prairie.....	20	40	35	5	56	55	20	5,190.00	3,315.00
No. 7 Beaver River.....	134	285	45	88	460	210	55	39,725.00	11,853.00
No. 8A Wolf Lake.....	10	20	2	—	90	26	6	3,160.00	1,490.00
No. 9A Elizabeth.....				(Combined with No. 10, Fishing Lake)					
No. 10 Fishing Lake.....	75	140	10	9	420	220	21	19,750.00	10,020.00
	363	687	240	102	1716	668	142	\$112,545.00	\$ 45,893.00

Veterans' Welfare and Advisory Commission

Although minimized to some extent the problems of veterans and their dependents require considerable attention. Non-pensionable veterans and non-pensionable veterans' widows are still in need of assistance and advice and efforts were continued among this class in an endeavour to have satisfactory legislation enacted on a federal level to cover these cases.

The War Veterans' Allowance Act

Much dissatisfaction and hardship has been caused by the terms of The War Veterans' Allowance Act which excluded from its benefits all those who, whilst volunteering for active service, did not actually serve in an area designated as an "Actual Theatre of War".

A slight improvement in the legislation has been noted in the entitlement of veterans of the British Imperial Army and veterans of the Allied Armies, who have resided in Canada for twenty years, to all the benefits of the Act. Several hundred Alberta veterans will be affected by this change.

Another change in the Act brings widows of the above-noted veterans under its scope providing they had been married twenty years to the veteran prior to his decease. As this limitation inflicts hardships upon many dependents whose husband died under the twenty-year limit efforts are being made to have it removed.

Strong pressure is being maintained to have all veterans, wherever they served, if otherwise qualified, entitled to the full benefits of this legislation.

Land Settlement

Veterans are still interested in settlement on farm lands in the province although not to the same degree as formerly. The commission chairman visited the Wanham settlement project and interviewed many of the settlers. As a result of representations made following the visit a steel bridge is to be erected into the project and roads improved. This will entail an expenditure of over \$30,000.00 but will be of great benefit to the settlers, all of whom are veterans. Various other matters were discussed including proper school facilities, revision of leases, district roads, etc., all of which received favourable consideration from the departments concerned.

Veterans Still Have Preference

As in previous years fullest veterans' preference has been exercised throughout the service and many veterans are still entering the service. At the last survey over 2,400 veterans, male and female are employed by the Provincial Government and its agencies throughout the province. It is pleasing to report that all veterans employed have adjusted to their new surroundings in a most creditable manner and are highly esteemed in their respective fields.

Federal - Provincial Training

Veterans are still taking advantage of learning a trade under the provisions of the Federal - Provincial Trades Training plan. Graduates from this training scheme are rapidly absorbed in the various building trades and industrial groups. Veterans taking this training have their allowances subsidized enabling them to re-establish themselves.

Low-Price Rental Homes Needed

The paramount problem still appears to be the provision of Low-Priced Rental Homes. With the removal of rental control fantastic rentals are being demanded for the most inadequate accommodation.

Representations have been made by national conventions of the Canadian Legion and other interested bodies to urge the federal government to enact legislation to ameliorate this situation but as yet nothing concrete has been accomplished.

This problem is most acute in Calgary and Edmonton due to the rapid increase in population and large industrial development.

General

Problem cases handled by the committees set up by the Department of Veterans' Affairs in Calgary and Edmonton have not been as numerous in the year under review but the chairman has attended all meetings of these committees.

Much of the chairman's time has been taken up as a member of the Civil Service Commission and also in attendance at meetings of the Child Welfare Commission.

Close liaison has been maintained with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L. and other Veterans' organizations.

Veterans' hospitals have been visited periodically in all parts of the province. During these visits problems of the veterans and their dependents are discussed and handled in their behalf.

Frequent meetings have been held with Federal authorities dealing with veterans affairs both in Edmonton and at conventions.

The chairman appeared before the Canadian Pensions' commission on behalf of veterans all of whom were successful in their appeals.

During the year under review most parts of the province were visited and meetings addressed in the interest of veterans' rehabilitation.

Once again it is a pleasure to express appreciation to the Director of Personnel and the heads of the respective government departments for their co-operation in the work of the Veterans' Advisory Commission.

Child Welfare Branch

The Child Welfare Branch performs the various services for the care and protection of children who have suffered loss of their own homes through death, illness, divorce, abandonment or any other reason; children for whom temporary or permanent foster home care must be found; children born out of wedlock; children in families unable to ensure their well-being. This branch also places children in homes where they will be adopted, and in both temporary or permanent foster homes.

The Child Welfare Worker realizes that each child needs to be given love, affection, and a sense of belonging. This feeling of being wanted, of having a place in the scheme of things, enables a growing child to develop those feelings of security within himself that mean so much in making adjustments to other people which in turn will enable him to grow up as an emotionally mature and socially secure adult.

During the fiscal year under review, the Superintendent of Child Welfare had care and custody of 2,024 children by way of wardship, an increase of 206 over last year's total of 1,818. It is difficult to arrive at any one conclusion as to the reason for the general rise in the numbers of children who become wards of the Government. There has been a marked increase in population in the province the past few years, and this together with the fact that we have eleven inspectors in the field, attempting to serve the entire province, might indicate that we are in touch with children and their families needing this kind of service who have not previously been brought to our attention.

Children of Unmarried Parents

This year, 1,146 births out of wedlock were registered with the District Registrar of Vital Statistics as compared with 1,047 reported during 1948-1949, an increase of 99. In total there were 640 cases of unmarried parents dealt with, and of these 464 were closed.

The maintenance and care of a child is a great responsibility for an unmarried mother. More and more we are trying to place emphasis on the father's right and obligation to participate in the planning for the child by encouraging him to assume a fair portion of the responsibility. Not all mothers wish to take action against putative fathers but for those who did in 1949-1950 the Child Welfare Commission was successful in effecting settlement, either through the court or by agreement, in the sum of \$45,350.40.

We are not able to report a decrease in the total number of children born out of wedlock, but we do feel that our services to unmarried mothers have improved and that we are, through these, affording more security to the lives of children born of unmarried parents.

Legal Adoptions

The fact that 69% of the discharges from guardianship were due to adoption points out that the citizens of Alberta have a consistent and ever-growing interest in children and a firm belief in the soundness of family life.

During the report year 894 applications were received to adopt children. There were 669 adoption applications completed; 506 were wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare, 162 were non-wards (private adoptions).

Neglected and Dependent Children

All neglected and dependent children are placed under the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare who provides for their care and protection. On March 31, 1950, there were 2,024 children under the Superintendent; of these 815 had been declared neglected by Judges' Order. During the year 930 children were made wards of the government, 673 by Indenture, 224 deemed neglected, and 33 declared delinquent.

Juvenile Delinquents

During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1950, 455 children appeared in Juvenile Court in this province as a result of being involved in various delinquencies; 52 of these were girls. The previous year showed 404 children involved, 21 of whom were girls. Of the offences committed 334 were classified as major, 121 as minor. There were 29 repeaters.

It is interesting to note that the number of children classified under this heading remains approximately the same. Considerable appreciation and credit should be offered to the various Service Clubs, Community Leagues, Y.M.C.A.'s and Church Organizations, whose members, by sponsoring and providing recreation and entertainment programs for teen-agers, are doing so much for the prevention of delinquency among the youth of the province.

Home Investigating Committee

The Home Investigating Committee has the responsibility of approving homes for the placing of children whether they be under the guardianship of the Superintendent or children placed privately for adoption. During the fiscal year 787 applications were reviewed, 749 of these were approved and 38 refused for lack of proper qualifications. This committee through field representatives and other staff members is responsible for the inspection and approval of all homes and institutions in which children are placed.

The Home Investigating Committee is therefore largely responsible for the marked success in securing suitable homes for the children under our care, and the Child Welfare Commission, in placing children in these approved homes endeavours also to match, as nearly as possible, adoptive parents and the children requiring parental care.

Juvenile Offenders

Offences Committed—

Major Offences Against:	1948-49	1949-50
The Person	10	31
Morality in General.....	16	15
Property with Violence.....	155	19
Property without Violence.....	249	269
Total.....	<u>430</u>	<u>334</u>

Minor Violations of:

Morality in General.....	11	14
Federal Laws	7	4
Provincial Laws	40	70
Municipal Laws	32	33
Total.....	<u>90</u>	<u>121</u>
Total Number of Offences.....	<u>520</u>	<u>455</u>

Religion

	1948-49	1949-50
Protestant (all branches).....	235	256
Catholic	96	111
Others	---	5
Unknown	73	73
Total.....	<u>404</u>	<u>455</u>

Number of Juvenile Offenders
According to Age Group
Brought Before the Juvenile Court Judge

	1948-49	1949-50
8 years	2	5
9 years	6	7
10 years	13	10
11 years	15	20
12 years	15	22
13 years	42	42
14 years	69	51
15 years	74	91
16 years	86	100
17 years	82	107
Total.....	404	455
Males	383	403
Females	21	52
Total.....	404	455

Mothers' Allowance Branch

The purpose of The Mothers' Allowance Act is to help needy mothers bring up their children in a family group. The Act recognizes that a mother's care is essential to the well-being of her children and Mother's Allowance is regarded as a basic welfare service.

The Act provides financial aid for needy widows with children up to the age of 16 years, or children between the ages of 16 and 18 years who are attending school regularly and making satisfactory progress. It provides also for the wife of a man committed to a mental hospital under The Mental Diseases Act, for a woman who has been deserted for three years or more, and for a woman who has been living in marital relations with a man for a period of at least five years prior to his death and who had borne children registered in his name. The husband must have established residence in Alberta at the time of his death, committal, or act of desertion, and the wife must have a child or children under the ages referred to.

Application for an allowance may be made directly to the Superintendent of the Mothers' Allowance Branch, or to the inspector in the municipality in which the applicant lives. On receipt of an application the Superintendent, after proper investigation, recommends to the Minister the amount of allowance that is justified in each case. Contact is maintained by the municipality with the beneficiaries in the district, and any change in status which affects their eligibility is reported to the Superintendent. Such changes are carefully evaluated and, if necessary, adjustments in rate of allowance follows.

The 1946 Amendment to The Mothers' Allowance Act provides that the allowance may be continued for two years after the sixteenth birthday of any child making satisfactory progress in school. By continuing the allowance for this period, provision is made for fitting the child better to take his place in society and at the same time reduces the chances that he or she will become a juvenile delinquent.

Mothers' Allowances in 1949-1950 were paid to 1,668 families with 3,447 children. The average allowance per mother was \$474.98 and for each child \$229.84. The average number of children in the family was 2.1.

Number Assisted:

Women Assisted	1668
Children Assisted	3815
New Cases Assisted	234
Cases Removed from Roll	258

Approximately 17,000 cheques were mailed during the fiscal year under review.

Medical Services

In addition to the assistance provided for by The Mothers' Allowance Act, free hospitalization and medical services have also been made available to all recipients of Mothers' Allowance since 1947. Cards authorizing these services are issued to all recipients; dependent's names are listed on all cards.

Medical, dental and optical services are provided when required and hospitalization at public ward rates is available when recommended by the attending physician and approved by the Director of Medical Services.

The following statement shows how the allowances were distributed throughout the province for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 1950:

Municipality	No. of Women	No. of Children
Edmonton	206	393
Calgary	134	261
Lethbridge	25	43
Medicine Hat	27	50
Wetaskiwin	3	6
Red Deer	12	20
Drumheller	5	9
Towns	141	289
Villages	76	162
Improvement Districts	287	647
Municipal Districts	716	1546
Special Areas	18	27
Government	12	28
National Parks	6	12
TOTALS	1668	3447

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
Department of Public Welfare
TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Old Age Pensions Board
For the Year April 1st, 1949 to March 31st, 1950

Old Age Pensions

During the year ending March 31, 1950, the steady increase in Old Age Pensions was accelerated, the net increase for the year being 1457.

At March 31, 1950, 16,445 persons were receiving the old age pension.

During the year the amount of \$7,000,694.17 was paid in basic old age pensions, an increase of \$1,942,771.33 over the previous year.

Average old age pension (basic) \$37.83.

Blind Pensions

At March 31, 1950, 453 persons were receiving Blind Pensions in this province, the net increase for the year being 35.

During the year \$198,667.54 was paid in Blind Pensions in this province, an increase of \$59,405.77 over the previous year.

Effective June 1, 1949, a new agreement between the Dominion and the Province of Alberta was completed as a result of an amendment to The Old Age Pensions Act of Canada which provided for an increase in the maximum pension from \$30.00 to \$40.00 per month. This increase made it necessary for the Old Age Pensions' staff to review some 12,000 Old Age and Blind pensions in order to determine the amount of increase which each pensioner's means would permit in accordance with regulations.

Provincial Supplementary Allowance

At March 31, 1950, 16,569 old age pensioners and blind pensioners living in the Province of Alberta were receiving the provincial supplementary allowance in addition to their basic pensions. These represented Alberta pensioners and pensioners who had been transferred to Alberta by the Provinces of British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

Supplementary allowances were increased during the year. The individual monthly allowance being paid at March 31, 1950 was \$7.50.

Total payments of Supplementary Allowances for the year amounted to \$1,565,826.70, an increase of \$281,001.16 over the previous year.

The attached statistics indicate something of the extent of the work involved in administering old age pensions and blind pensions in this province.

Old Age Applications and Pensions

April 1st, 1949 to March 31st, 1950

Applications received	3,416	
Applications granted	2,943	
Applications rejected:		
Not seventy years of age	104	
Unable to prove age	6	
Lacking required residence	15	
Income	104	
Transfer of property	30	
Applications withdrawn	38	
Applications not completed	25	
War Veterans' Allowance	4	
Died before pension granted	35	361
<hr/>		
Pensions at March 31st, 1949	14,988	
Add: Pensions granted during 1949-1950	2,943	
Add: Pensions transferred from Other Provinces	427	
Add: Pensions reinstated	129	18,487
<hr/>		
Deduct: Pensioners deceased during the year	1,427	
Deduct: Pensions suspended	204	
Deduct: Pensions transferred to Other Provinces	411	2,042
<hr/>		
Total Pensioners on payroll at March 31, 1950		16,445
Average Old Age Pension (Basic)	\$37.83 monthly	

Conditions and Circumstances of Old Age Pensioners

Granted During 1949 - 1950

Sex: Male	1651
Female	1292
Conjugal State: Married	1401
Single	322
Widowed	1059
Separated	138
Divorced	23
	<hr/>
	2943

Classification of Pensions Authorized During

1949 - 1950 According to Age

Age:	No. of Pensioners
70	1514
71 to 75	956
76 to 80	306
Over 80	167
	<hr/>
	2943

Amount Paid in Old Age Pensions April 1, 1949 - March 31, 1950

Total amount paid Pensioners in Alberta.....		\$7,053,951.93
Less: Total amount of refunds.....	\$102,552.86	
Total amount received from deceased pensioner's estates and previous year's refunds.....	44,555.18	147,108.04
		<u>\$6,906,843.89</u>
Add: Amount paid to other Provinces and N.W.T. for pensioners with Alberta residence	\$193,282.55	
Less: Amount received from other Provinces and N.W.T. for pensioners with residence in other provinces	99,432.27	93,850.28
		<u>\$7,000,694.17</u>
Dominion Government's Share	\$5,180,132.92	

Supplemental Provincial Allowance

Total amount paid to Pensioners in Alberta.....		\$1,522,019.24
Less: Amount of year's refunds.....		20,136.75
		<u>\$1,501,882.49</u>
Add: Amount paid to British Columbia for Alberta pensioners resident there	\$87,485.45	
Less: Amount received from British Columbia for their pensioners resident in Alberta.....	17,900.00	69,585.45
		<u>\$1,571,467.94</u>
Add: Amount paid to Saskatchewan for Alberta pensioners resident there.....		5,277.14
		<u>\$1,576,745.08</u>
Less: Amount received from Saskatchewan for their pensioners resident in Alberta		10,918.38
Total cost to the Province of Alberta.....		<u>\$1,565,826.70</u>

Applications and Pensions for the Blind

April 1st, 1949 to March 31st, 1950

Applications received	88	
Pensions granted	59	
Applications rejected:		
Income	4	
Not able to meet blind test	16	
Not completed	5	
Not 21 years of age	1	
Died before pension granted	3	
	<hr/>	29
Blind Pensioners as at March 31, 1949	418	
Add: Pensions granted during 1949-50	59	
Pensions transferred from other provinces	7	
Pensions reinstated	7	
	<hr/>	491
Deduct: Pensioners deceased during the year	25	
Pensions suspended	6	
Pensions transferred to other provinces	7	
	<hr/>	38
		<hr/>
Total Blind Pensioners as at March 31, 1950		453

Condition and Circumstances of Blind Pensioners

Added During Fiscal Year, 1949 - 1950

Sex: Male	25
Female	34
	<hr/>
	59
Conjugal State: Married	29
Single	15
Widowed	13
Separated	2
	<hr/>
	59

Amount Paid in Blind Pensions

April 1, 1949 - March 31, 1950

Total amount paid to blind pensioners in Alberta.....	\$	199,944.29
Less: Total amount of refunds.....	\$1,963.19	
Total amount received from deceased pensioner's estates and previous year's refunds.....	90.00	2,053.19
		<u>\$ 197,891.10</u>
Add: Amount paid to other provinces and N.W.T. for pensioners with Alberta residence	\$3,698.63	
Less: Amount received from other Provinces and N.W.T. for pensioners with residence in other provinces	2,922.19	776.44
		<u>\$ 198,667.54</u>
Dominion Government's Share	\$148,418.32.	

Inspection Branch

The Province is divided into twelve zones, and in each zone there is an inspector whose duties are to investigate and report to the Department on all cases in which any Branch of the department may be interested.

Each inspector is provided with lists of the names of all persons who are in contact with the Department and these lists are arranged according to the Post Office address within the particular zone. They are amended from day to day from master lists prepared by the Chief Inspector, who has all the records and reports of the various branches up to date.

Apart from the daily routine of investigating new applications and inspecting homes where children may be placed, the inspectors are required to visit the home of each person appearing on these lists at least twice a year, and to submit reports on each case to the Chief Inspector. The latter, in turn, forwards these reports to the particular branch interested.

In those districts where the scarcity of population does not justify the appointment of a full-time inspector, this work is performed through special arrangements with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In respect to applications for Mothers' Allowances originating within the boundaries of organized municipalities, it is the practice for the duly appointed representative of the municipality concerned to make the first inspection and submit the report to the Department, along with the Council's recommendation; while in Improvement Districts, investigations in regard to Old Age Pensions are carried out by the inspectors of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

The staff of the Inspection Branch made a total of 18,221 inspections during the year, while 2,373 investigations were made by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and 2,104 by members of the staff of the Department of Municipal Affairs. In addition to this, 1,474 visits were made directly by the members of the staff of the Child Welfare Branch in the ordinary course of their duties.

Accounting Branch

The continued increase in the expenditures of the Department consequent on greater activity by all the branches dealing with the public caused a corresponding increase in the work of the Accounts Branch.

Substantial increases are disclosed in the following summary of expenditures made on account of the services indicated under the respective headings:

	1949 - 50	1948 - 49
Municipalities	\$ 500,292.00	\$ 108,248.00
Improvement Districts	172,441.00	147,008.00
Transients	52,100.00	33,916.00
Single Men	114,450.00	104,476.00
Rehabilitation Projects	42,129.00	44,249.00
Child Welfare	439,702.00	313,366.00
Old Age Pensions	8,999,256.00	6,866,646.00
Mothers' Allowances	803,575.00	661,398.00
Hospitalization and Treatment services for recipients of Old Age Pensions and Mothers' Allowances and their Dependents...	891,575.00	882,057.00
	\$12,015,559.00	\$ 9,161,364.00

The large increase in the payments to municipalities was caused by payment of 60% of the cost of public assistance by municipalities under the terms of The Public Welfare Assistance Act, 1949.

All books of account were properly balanced and the information extracted from them and published in the Public Accounts sets forth a true statement of financial operations of the Department.

All accounts submitted received prompt attention and payment was made for those found to be correct without undue delay.

Staff changes consequent on promotions, resignations and transfers were numerous but the efficiency of the Branch was maintained and all duties were performed diligently and satisfactorily.

